



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**

*PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

July 13, 2005

**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**FROM:** Carl Osaki, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: CRUISE SHIP WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES--UPDATE**

**Background and Summary**

At its March 2004 meeting, the Board heard about concerns over the disposal of wastewater into Washington waters by cruise ships and about strategies to implement cooperative control measures with the cruise ship industry. We were briefed on the roles of state and federal agencies in improving cruise ship wastewater management practices and heard about a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the state of Washington and the cruise ship lines. The initial MOU did not answer all of the concerns that were expressed to the Board, and the Board requested a future update. Today, it will get that update and hear about preliminary planning for studying virus survival in discharges of cruise ship wastewater, which could have potential effects on shellfish growing areas.

The Honorable Mary Lou Dickerson, Washington State Representative, proposed House Bill 1415 in the 2005 session in an attempt to create enforceable cruise ship waste management standards, along with sampling and monitoring requirements. The bill progressed through the legislative process, being amended several times. It ultimately stalled as the legislative session ended. The legislative interest, however, resulted in the Department of Ecology (Ecology) developing refinements to the MOU. Also, the Department of Health (DOH) and the United States Food and Drug Administration were able to focus more attention on protecting shellfish growing areas from potential impacts of cruise ship discharges.

Ecology is the lead state agency implementing the MOU between the state of Washington, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, the Port of Seattle, and the Northwest Cruiseship Association (NWCA). The MOU is based on the International Council of Cruise Lines' *Cruise Industry Waste Management Practices and Procedures*, adopted by the NWCA. In January 2005, Ecology published a report titled *2004 Assessment of Cruise Ship Environmental Effects in Washington* (attached). Based on its assessment, Ecology has led development of a proposed revision to the initial MOU.

Today, Amy Jankowiak, Ecology, will summarize the proposed revised version of the MOU. Frank Meriwether, DOH Shellfish Program, is also here to answer questions you may have about preliminary planning of future studies to investigate virus survival in cruise ship discharges.

**Recommended Board Action**

No action recommended.